

BUSING ON THE LOOKOUT IN OHIO

Equipping, educating and empowering school transportation professionals to join the fight against human trafficking.



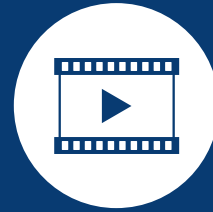
14,500+

school buses
operating in
Ohio



775,000+

students
transported
each day



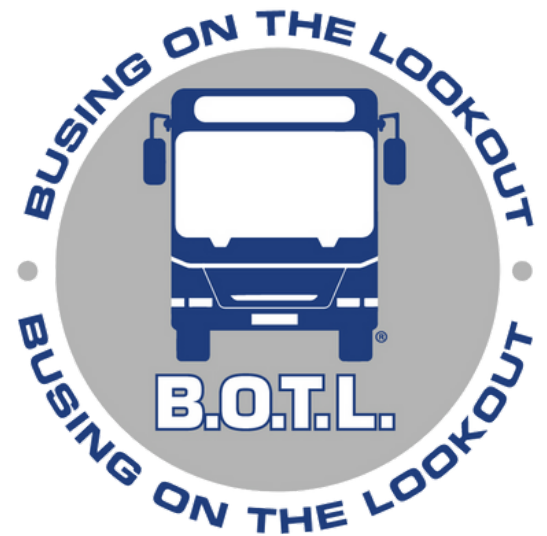
22 min.

BOTL training
that could
save lives

The Problem

Human trafficking – or modern-day slavery – is the exploitation of human beings through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of commercial sex or forced labor. There are an estimated 40 million victims of human trafficking globally, including thousands of school-age children in the United States. **In 2021, 355 victims or survivors of human trafficking contacted the National Human Trafficking Hotline from the state of Ohio.**

Pimps and traffickers recruit out of schools, online, in shopping malls, as well as the streets and other locations, including bus stops and terminals. Some child victims of trafficking will continue attending school during the day – and riding the school bus – even while they are being trafficked or groomed at night. **With over 40% of Ohio school children riding the bus daily, school transportation has a key opportunity to identify and interrupt grooming and/or child trafficking.**



School bus drivers:

- See students almost every day as they transport them between home and school.
- Are often keenly aware of changes in students' behavior, moods, physical appearance, and attendance.
- Are uniquely positioned to see if new or different people are waiting to pick up a student at the bus stop or at school.
- May observe red flags such as inappropriate dress for the weather or school, bruising or physical trauma, and markings or tattoos that could be a pimp's branding.

What can you do?

Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) is on a mission to train every school transportation professional in North America. Our training is available **free of cost for all school transportation staff across the state of Ohio to get trained on how to recognize and report human trafficking in their everyday jobs.**

If every school transportation employee could be trained to identify the signs of human trafficking and how to report it effectively, **imagine how many victims could be recovered** and, potentially, how many traffickers could be arrested!

For more information contact Lexi Higgins, BOTL Director: lhiggins@truckersagainstrafficking.org.

Here are ways you can continue to learn about BOTL and the issue of human trafficking:

Download
the BOTL app:



Follow us on
social media:



Visit our
website:



Thank you to all of the school transportation professionals in Ohio who have joined the fight against human trafficking! We are proud to work with you in keeping kids safe from exploitation and trafficking.

THE BUS INDUSTRY HAS A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Look for students who:

- have begun to accumulate frequent absences
- demonstrate changes in moods, such as irritability or panic
- have new gadgets, designer clothes, other material items
- are dressed inappropriately for the weather or school
- show bruising, physical trauma, signs of branding/tattooing
- have a new or different person picking them up/dropping them off at the bus stop.
- acknowledge having a pimp or needing to make a quota

Take Action

- Watch the BOTL training video
- Spread the word with your colleagues and at home
- Make sure you know your school's reporting policies
- Whenever you suspect human trafficking ... make the call, save lives 1-888-3737-888 (US) | 833-900-1010 (Canada)

There's an app for that!

DOWNLOAD THE BOTL APP SO YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE INFORMATION YOU NEED SHOULD THE SITUATION ARISE.

- How to report potential human trafficking
- Red flags that might indicate human trafficking for school transportation and transit/motorcoach professionals
- Resources to learn more about the issue of human trafficking including videos, books, and podcasts

To download, search "Busing on the Lookout" in the Apple App Store or Google Play, or scan the QR code on this flyer with your phone camera.



Download the app!